

India as far north as 12°. It is also recorded from Thailand (Taylor 1963; Cox *et al.* 1998), Sumatra (De Rooij 1915), the Mentawai Islands (Dring *et al.*, 1990; Smith, 1926) and both the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Das 1999). In Maharashtra, Humayun Abdulali (1955) had recorded this species (BNHS Regn. No. 70) from Mahabaleshwar (17° 56' E, 73° 42' N) and Yellapur, North Kanara (14° 59' E 74° 46' N). It was also included in the list of reptiles of Maharashtra by Daniel (1974) and the list of turtles and lizards by Nalawade (1998).

Though this is not a range extension of this species, their abundance at Amboli is noteworthy.

We are thankful to Mr. Sameer Kehimkar, who helped us during one of the surveys.

September 3, 2001

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- *Original not seen.

17. A NOTE ON THE ECTOPARASITIC TICKS OF REPTILES FROM SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN

Very little is known about ticks that live as parasites on reptiles of southern Rajasthan. Sharma (*JBNHS* 94(3): 573-55) has reported *Aponomma gervaisi* infesting *Varanus*

TABLE I
PARASITIC TICKS COLLECTED FROM REPTILES KILLED ON THE
KOTRA-PALIYAKHEDA AND JHADOL-GORANA ROAD

Sl. No.	Locality	Year	Host	Parasitic Tick	Site of Attachment
1.	Jhameri Reserve Forest, Range Jhadol (T)	1994	<i>Python molurus</i>	<i>Amblyomma javanense</i>	Dorsum
2.	Kirat Reserve Forest, Range Jhadol (T)	1994	<i>Geochelone elegans</i>	<i>A. clypeolatum</i>	Near tail base
3.	Phulwari Wildlife Sanctuary	1995	<i>G. elegans</i>	<i>A. clypeolatum</i>	Near base of neck
4.	Phulwari Wildlife Sanctuary	1996	<i>P. molurus</i> *	<i>A. javanense</i>	Near cloaca
5.	Gujari-ki-Nal Forest, Range Jhadol (T)	1997	<i>P. molurus</i>	<i>A. javanense</i>	Ventrum

*A live specimen was removed from the road and released in a safer locality inside the Sanctuary

bengalensis in Udaipur district, Rajasthan.

To know more about the ticks of reptiles of southern Rajasthan, many reptiles killed on the Kotra Paliyakheda and Jhadol-Gorana road in Udaipur district, Rajasthan were examined and the ticks collected. The samples were sent to the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, for identification. Besides *Aponomma gervaisi* on *Varanus bengalensis*, two other species of ticks were also recorded (Table 1).

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September 3, 2001 SATISH KUMAR SHARMA
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18. ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF *BUFO PARIETALIS* BOULENGER, 1882, AMPHIBIA: FAMILY BUFONIDAE

Bufo parietalis was described by Boulenger (1882) from the south Indian state of Kerala. The only record of the species from Karnataka is that of Daniels (1992), who reported one adult from the evergreen forest leaf litter in Charmadi Ghats. This is the first report of populations of the species from Karnataka. We discuss the new range in Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka, its call, habits, food and breeding season.

The Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka (12° 15' N; 75° 33' E) on the western slope of the Western Ghats ranges from 125 m above msl at Subramannya to 1,400 m above msl at Kumaraparvatha. The vegetation is Semi-evergreen with high canopy cover. However, due to selective felling 25 years ago, the forest is secondary. Though there is an annual harvest of cane and other minor forest produce, there are no human settlements within the forest. The day temperature ranges from 26-29 °C and the night temperature at 2000 hrs is around 18 °C in the post monsoon season. The annual monsoon rainfall totals 400 cm. A few showers are received in November and January. This tropical rain forest supports many perennial hill streams with rocky puddles, which are often used by the toad for breeding.

We surveyed the forest for amphibians in 1998-2000 by walking along six well spaced

transects. Transects were placed in three altitudinal classes. A total of 21 km were walked in 18 months.

This large, terrestrial and crepuscular forest toad has prominent parotid ridges. The parotid glands are enlarged during the breeding season. The dorsal surface is black, the skin rough and irregularly folded. Supraorbital, postorbital and parietal ridges are contiguous. Ventrally, it is white with dark brown speckles.

Altitudinal preferences: The rainforest toad population was unevenly distributed within the forest and seemed to have altitudinal preferences. In the study area, they were observed to occur between 150 m and 360 m above msl. However, elsewhere in India, they occur at 500 m above msl or more (Daniels 1992).

Morphometrics: The average snout to vent length (SVL) of male toads measured 62.55 mm (N=22) and of females 96.41 mm (N=18). The toad was previously known to reach 85 mm (Daniel 1963), while the largest we recorded was 105.6 mm.

Habits: We observed that the toad goes into dormancy during the peak monsoon months (June to August) and breeds in February (Table 1).

Feeding: The toads were seen catching and eating low flying and crawling insects such as fruitflies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), ants and grasshoppers. The fecal contents revealed